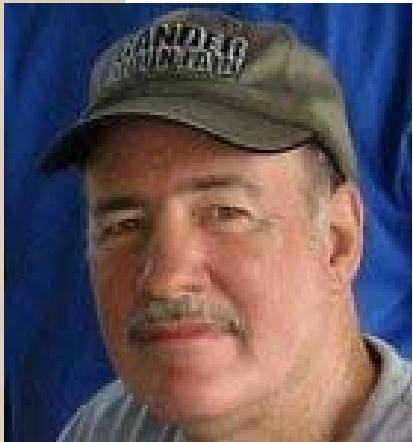


Spark Gap

Volume 26, Issue 12, December 2009 **MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years**

Update from K9DY



As the new club officers assume their roles, we are looking forward to continuing the momentum gained over the last couple of years, to keep the club viable and growing, both in membership and upgrading our capabilities to best serve our community.

On the air activities such as Field Day, and some special operations will be planned for the upcoming year to satisfy the adventurous among us. We will try to have interesting, informative programs or guest speakers, so everyone will look forward to those early Saturday morning meetings along with a cup of coffee. Perhaps we can have some "hands on" projects as well.

I'd like every member to not only attend our meetings, but bring a fellow ham, or prospective ham. Our supper group, organized by Joe Rodgers, KF9LQ, is also a great place to become better acquainted with your fellow hams, and talk radio, or whatever. We now have a nicely appointed club station with good equipment and some new antennas for HF through UHF for our licensed members to use. This is an excellent way for the newer hams to learn operating etiquette and procedures, with an experienced operator there for support. Let us know what would enhance your enjoyment of amateur radio, and what you might like for activities or programs. We are here to serve you.

Steve K9DY, President

MARC Receives Charter of Affiliation from the ARRL.

The ARRL has sent MARC a Charter of Affiliation in celebration of our 25th year. The Charter of Affiliation declares the following:

"Whereas it is the desire of the American Radio Relay League to establish bonds of affiliation with noncommercial Amateur Radio organizations of kindred aims and purposes to make possible unity of action in matters affecting the welfare of Amateur Radio and lend mutual strength; and Whereas

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Has declared its sympathy and with and allegiance to the aims and policies of the League in its efforts to strengthen and advance Amateur Radio Communication and Experimentation, and has expressed its willingness and desire to coorporate therein.

Now therefore, and under the policies of its Board of Directors, the ARRL as of this date hereby declares the said organization to be an affiliated body and issues this charter in token thereof.

Celebrating 25 Years of ARRL
Affiliation, November 19, 1984 to
November 19, 2009."

The charter is signed by David Sumner,
Secretary and Joel Harrison, W5ZN,
President of the ARRL.

The charter will be presented to our
President, Steve Carmean, K9DY, at the
December meeting.

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*

MARC

Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Tech Committee Update

Keeping up with Amateur Radio interests has kept the club Technical Committee busy throughout 2009. With the help of Steve-K9DY, Chris-KQ9Y, Bob-KC9NJM and Dave KB9LOT we have set up, wired up and dug up enough projects to fill a calendar.

Our agenda has taken us to the top of the short tower behind the jail where professional climbers mounted three new VHF/UHF antennas for emergency use. The dual band antenna at 120-feet has proven to be an invaluable simplex link with surrounding counties.

Three new radios and digital interfaces now grace the desktop in the EOC radio room. That was no small feat. It has taken countless hours to run coax, wire up power supplies and customize installation of all radios for a first class radio operation.

Steve and Chris spent a lot of time tuning antennas for the perfect match using their MFJ Analyzers. Ham radio newcomer Richard Burton-KC9QGP helped dig a mast-mounting hole in Brenda Haler's side yard. Brenda-KC9EDL is on the HF airwaves with a multi-band vertical antenna installed last month by Jack, Richard and Steve. Coax leading to the house was buried under ground, then looped up through the attic and dropped into a closet in Brenda's radio room. Sixteen ground radials were added two weeks ago to maximize HF antenna performance.

Earlier this spring Mike Hankins-KC9DSI loaded up Jack's 45-foot tower and moved it to his home in Beech Grove. Rusty Kirts-N9LLP and Richard-KC9QGP made good use of Jack's mast section give-away.

Our thanks to the many volunteers who helped with various stages of special projects this year. I apologize for omitting anyone at this writing.

Those of note are: Steve Brown-N9LC, Linda Harshbarger-KC9GCH, Jim Yeater-KC9ODS, Neil Cooper-KC9ODU, Brian Murray-KB9BVN, Myron Coy-KC9ODW, Bryan Kilgore-KC9OAG and Jay Chrisman-AA9YP.

Jack Parker, W8ISH

Amateur Radio Bill

Amateur Radio Bill Passes Senate, Moves to the House

ARRL: On Monday, December 14, — *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009* — ; the bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration. Sponsored by Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), S 1755, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security () to undertake a study on emergency communications. S 1755 points out that “There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given — (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations.”

Members of the Senate considered S 1755 on December 10. After it passed through Committee, it was placed on the Senate's calendar to be voted on. “We are grateful to Committee Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins for sponsoring the bill and arranging for its swift consideration and passage by the Senate,” said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Similar in language to (also called *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009* that was this past April by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee [D-TX-18]), S 1755 calls on DHS to undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief and then to submit a report to Congress no more than 180 days after the bill becomes law.

Officers

President:
Steve Carmean,
K9DY

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Robert Jones,
KC9NJM

Treasurer:
Jacki Frederick,
K16QOG

Repeater Trustee:
Jay Chrisman,
AA9YP

Spark Gap Editors:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

Class Update

The Technician level amateur radio class was cancelled as not enough potential hams signed up for the class. If you know of anyone wishing to take a class, please have them contact me at 317-887-2558 or at PIO@midstatehams.org. We will be attempting another class beginning in February or March 2010.

Class size is limited to 14 students so registration will close when all 14 spaces are filled. The class will not be held if there is a lack of students. Please check around and let anyone know who is interested. Let's do what we can to get the spring 2010 class filled.

Big New Sunspot

Sunspot 1035 is now as wide as seven planet Earths. The fast-growing region burst into view on Dec. 14th with a magnetic polarity that clearly identifies it as a member of new Solar Cycle 24. Check <http://spaceweather.com> for movies, photos and updates.

December Meeting

It's that time again to support the club and the club repeater by paying yearly dues. Dues are still \$18/year. Please see Jacki Miles, KI6QOG, Treasurer, at the meeting and pay your dues. Thanks for your support! It's greatly appreciated.

When paying dues, please let Jacki know if you are a member of the ARRL. We continue our Special Services Club status with 50% or greater membership in the ARRL. An ARRL membership helps to support the hobby and allows us to purchase textbooks for a discount that is extended to the students.

If you have made changes to your AR equipment or have moved, please take this time to update your club membership information. Club forms and ARES/RACES forms are available at the meeting.

Hamfest/Event Info

The Dugger Amateur Radio Club

Hamfest will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at the Dugger Park Community Building, South Hicum Street (just off State Highway 54), in Dugger, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 146.775 (PL 136.5) repeater. For more information contact Kyle Shipman, KB9ZGN via e-mail at kb9zgn@sbcglobal.net.

The Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association (WVARA) Hamfest and Computer Expo will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Terre Haute National Guard Armory, 3614 Maple Avenue, Terre Haute, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 146.685 (PL 151.4) repeater. For more information contact Nick Vinardi, N9WG via e-mail at n9wg@hotmail.com.

The Columbus Amateur Radio Club

Hamfest will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, 750 West County Road 200 South, Columbus, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 146.790 (PL 100.0) repeater. For more information contact Marion Winterberg, WD9HTN via e-mail at carc_in@bcremc.net.

VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. Please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org for directions.

WA9RDF

Repeater

146.835/

146.235 MHz

151.4 Hz PL

Tone

Weekly Net

**Every Sunday
at 7PM ET**

**Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!**

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors a weekly traffic and social net on our repeater. The net begins at 7:00 p.m. local time, and features local news, announcements, and NTS traffic, as well as rebroadcasts of Amateur Radio Newsline. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills.

2009/2010 Schedule of Events

DECEMBER 2009

19 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

JANUARY 2010

16 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

FEBRUARY 2010

20 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

MARCH 2010

6 Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Dugger Park Community Building, South Hicum Street, Dugger, IN 47848

13 2010 Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium

Registration begins around Christmas 2009; Valle Vista Conference Center 755 East Main Street, Greenwood, IN 46143; Conference 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

13 Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Hamfest and Computer Expo

Terre Haute National Guard Armory; 3514 Maple Avenue, Terre Haute, IN

20 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

27 Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, 750 West County road 200 South, Columbus, IN

APRIL 2010

17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

December 2009 Newsletter – Photo Pages

Photo 1 Steve K9DY checking SWR on antenna	 A man wearing a blue baseball cap and a dark blue jacket is holding a small electronic device with a cable attached, likely an SWR meter, and looking at it. He is standing outdoors in a grassy area with trees in the background.
Photo 2 Richard Burton KC9QGP digging mast mounting hole	 Two men are working on a wooden mast. One man in a red and black plaid jacket is digging a hole in the ground with a shovel. Another man in a dark jacket is standing on a silver ladder, holding the mast. They are working in a grassy yard in front of a house.

Photo 3	
Steve, Richard and Jack Parker W8ISH checking coax connections	 A photograph showing three men working on a vertical antenna pole in a grassy yard. One man is standing and talking, while two others are kneeling or crouching near the base of the pole, focused on coaxial cable connections. A ladder is leaning against the pole, and a large white tarp is spread out on the grass nearby.

Photos were taken during the Brenda Haler KC9EBL HF antenna installation.